

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/615,971

Examiner

Shervin Nakhjavan

Applicant(s)

TAO ET AL.

Art Unit

2621

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE received on 10-7-04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9 and 11-18.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some\*   c) ☐ None   of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Claim 9 in the amendment filed 8-9-04 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.121(c) for having an incorrect status identifier. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 9, Line 1, change "(original)" to read --(Currently amended)--.

2. Applicant's arguments, see remarks, page 8, filed 8-9-04, with respect to selecting an initial configuration of claims 1 and 11 and object configuration of claim 9 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1, 9 and 11 have been withdrawn.

### REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: claims 1-9 and 11-18 are allowed because, the prior art of record Cham et al. (US 6,353,679) or Crabtree et al. (US 6,295,367) does not teach *selecting* an initial configuration comprising a plurality of objects, wherein the initial configuration represents an initial relationship among the objects in said plurality of objects of claims 1 and 11 and

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*hierarchical sampling* of frames of video, wherein said sampling is performed in an *object configuration* and *individual object states*, said object configuration representing a relationship among a plurality of objects within a scene for tracking objects of claim 9, combined with other features and elements of the claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

**Contact information**

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shervin Nakhjavan whose telephone number is (703) 306-5916. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Boudreau, can be reached at (703) 305-4706.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**Or faxed to:**

(703) 872-9306 for *formal* communications, please mark "**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**"

**or:**

for *informal* or *draft* communications; please label "**PROPOSED**" or "**DRAFT**".

**Hand delivered responses** should be brought to Crystal Park 2, 2121 Crystal drive, Arlington, VA, sixth floor (Receptionist).

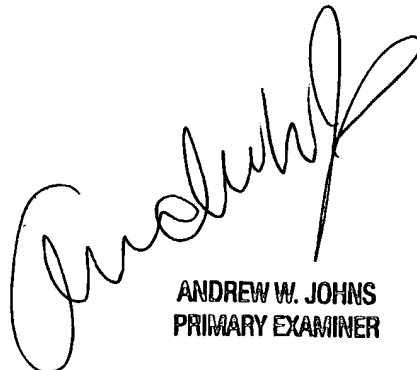
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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Tech center 2700 customer service office **(703) 306-0377**.

Shervin Nakhjavan *S.N*  
Patent Examiner  
Group Art Unit 2621  
December 2, 2004.



ANDREW W. JOHNS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER